

Ralph F. Boyd, Jr., U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights



Ralph F. Boyd, Jr. is the U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. In that capacity, he heads the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. The Division is the primary institution within the federal government responsible for enforcing federal laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, gender, handicap, religion, and national origin. The Division also enforces several criminal statutes outlawing violence or threats of violence against people engaged in the exercise of their fundamental rights.

Prior to his appointment by President George W. Bush, and confirmation by the United States Senate, Assistant Attorney General Boyd was a partner in the Trial and Litigation Department of the Boston law firm of Goodwin Proctor LLP, where his litigation practice concentrated on securities and corporate governance matters, product liability, trade secret, business and civil RICO litigation, and corporate internal investigations.

Mr. Boyd also previously served as Assistant United States Attorney in the Major Crimes Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Boston. During his six years as a federal prosecutor, Mr. Boyd investigated and prosecuted bank fraud, firearms, homicide, bombing, narcotics trafficking, and bank robbery cases, as well as several high profile cases involving gang violence. He served as the Boston U.S. Attorney's Firearms Prosecution Coordinator, and administered Operation Triggerlock, a national firearms prosecution initiative of the United States Department of Justice. He also was a member of the Justice Department's Urban Anti-Violence Crime Initiative Team, the Mayor's Anti-Crime Council, and the Cease Fire Group - an initiative involving federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and the Boston Public Schools.

Mr. Boyd argued numerous appeals on behalf of the United States in the United States Court of Appeals. He also has argued in the Massachusetts Appeals Court and the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, tried civil cases, conducted evidentiary hearings, and obtained - - and successfully argued against -- injunctions on behalf of corporate, individual, and non-profit clients in state and federal courts in Massachusetts and elsewhere.

Mr. Boyd has been a faculty member on numerous bar association continuing legal education and trial training programs, an advisor to the Trial Advocacy Workshop at the Harvard Law School, and a frequent speaker at Boston College and Harvard Law Schools. He also has served as an unpaid consultant to the Massachusetts State Police.

Mr. Boyd has co-chaired subcommittees of both the Massachusetts Bar Association, and the Boston Bar Association, where he also served as a member of the Association's Council and Executive Committee. In March 1996, he was appointed by then Governor William F. Weld to the Executive Committee of the Judicial Nominating Council, where he served three Massachusetts governors until his nomination by President Bush in 2001. In 1997, Mr. Boyd was appointed to serve on the U.S. Magistrate Judge Selection and Review Panel by the judges of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Assistant Attorney General Boyd graduated from Haverford College (B.A., 1979), and the Harvard Law School (J.D., 1984). Following law school, he served as law clerk to the Honorable Joseph H. Young, United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.